

tions and follows identically, except for the change of twenty to twenty-five years, the Commission draft. This would allow the General Assembly to fill the vacancy of any delegate.

THE CHAIRMAN: Will the delegates who do not have a corrected copy, that is, with page two printed on the reverse of page one, please indicate and the pages will bring you a corrected copy right away.

Committee Recommendation GP-8 should be printed on the reverse as well as on the front.

Delegate Adkins.

DELEGATE ADKINS: I would like to ask the chairman a question. I am troubled by this provision that the General Assembly may call a constitutional convention without reference to the people. I wonder if you would elaborate a little on the Committee's rationale behind that provision since it is not in our present law and has inherent in it a good many dangers.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Adkins, I could not hear what you said. It is certainly something about our present law.

DELEGATE ADKINS: I think it is unlike our present law that the General Assembly can call a constitutional convention without referring it to the people for ratification. I find this troublesome. I would simply like reassurance as to their reasons for the situation.

DELEGATE BOYER: We found there is a recent case decided by the Court of Appeals, *Board of Election Supervisors v. Attorney General of Maryland* decided in 1967, which states that authority to call a convention is inherent in the state legislature. This spells out the present case law on the subject.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Adkins, the Chair might add that probably you will recall there was an opinion of the Attorney General in 1965 to the effect that the legislature had the inherent power to call the constitutional convention at any time either with or without a prior referendum to the people to take the sense of the people as to the calling of a convention.

Delegate Koss.

DELEGATE KOSS: Delegate Boyer, I was wondering whether the language in line 13 would provide that a convention should be convened and recessed within one year after the vote. The term is the convention shall be held or do you mean it should be convened within one year?

DELEGATE BOYER: That is a better word possibly, Delegate Koss. Convene is the intent.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Koss.

DELEGATE KOSS: It seems to me that on the basis of our experience, one year for a commission to meet and the convention to meet and complete its business is a little meager.

DELEGATE BOYER: You have experience and in that experience would like this Convention, when you roll up your sleeves and get down to work, to do the job.

THE CHAIRMAN: Are there any other questions of the Committee Chairman? The Chair hears none.

While he returns to his seat, the Chair understands that there are a series of amendments being proposed by Delegates Needle, Hardwicke, and Sollins. I think these can be better understood and considered by the Committee of the Whole if they are presented first as a group although they will be acted upon separately. The Chair, therefore, calls on Delegate Needle and suggests you might come forward to the reading desk, Delegate Needle, in view of the number of amendments involved.

Delegate Adkins, the opinion of the Attorney General to which I referred is printed in the final report of the Commission beginning at page 443.

Will the pages please pass out Amendment B; you might also pass out A, which is a recapitulation of all of them: A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, J. Pass out Amendment A first because that is a summary.

DELEGATE NEEDLE: Mr. Chairman, about two weeks ago Delegate Gallagher offered an amendment and then he offered another amendment, and some member of this Convention said, Delegate Gallagher, what is your whole program? It is my desire to present to you my whole program at the outset.

For that purpose, Delegates Hardwicke and Sollins and myself have prepared a memorandum which was distributed about a week ago which I hope you have in your books, which presents to you the amended section on constitutional conventions if you were to adopt all of the amendments which I am proposing at this time. It was prepared in that fashion so that you could see clearly exactly the purpose of each amendment.